

Board stated: "It is unclear to what extent, if any, these provisions apply to entities in the Legislative Branch. Furthermore, even if applicable or partly applicable, it is unclear whether and to what extent the Legislative Branch has the type of employees and employing offices that would be subject to these provisions. Consequently, the Board reserves judgment on whether or not these provisions should be made applicable to the Legislative Branch at this time."

Further, in the 1998 Report the Board concluded that, while it remained unclear whether some or all of the environmental statutes apply to the legislative branch, "[t]he Board recommends that Congress should adopt legislation clarifying that the employee protection provisions in the environmental protection statutes apply to all entities within the Legislative Branch."

In the 2002 and 2004 Reports, the Board explicitly analyzed these protections and recommended that the employee protection provisions of these acts be placed within the CAA and applied to all covered employees, including employees of the Government Accountability Office, Government Printing Office, and Library of Congress. The Board reiterates those recommendations herein, including its recommendation to eliminate the separation of powers conflict inherent in enforcing these statutes, and urges Congress to include such amendments to the Act.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Compliance, Room LA 200, John Adams Building, 110 Second Street, SE, Washington, DC 20540-1999, t/ 202-724-9250 tdd/ 202-426-1912 f/ 202-426-1913. Recorded Information Line/ 202-724-9260 www.compliance.gov.

ENDNOTES

¹Subsections (b)(11) and (b)(12) refer to "competitive service," merit systems principles, and other specific personnel matters within the . . .

²S. 3676, 109th Cong. (2006)

³See 5 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.

⁴See 5 U.S.C. § 7118(a)(1)

⁵See 29 U.S.C. § 660(c)(2). See also Federal Mine Safety and Health Act, 30 U.S.C. § 815 which grants the Secretary of Labor the authority to prosecute a discrimination claim before the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission.

⁶These procedures do not apply to federal sector equal employment opportunity.

⁷29 U.S.C. § 158(a)(4); § 160(b).

⁸29 U.S.C. § 657.

⁹See "Testimony of David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States Before the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate" (May 17, 2005), p. 9.

¹⁰OSHA Directive CPL 2-0.124, December 10, 1999.

¹¹Id., Sections X(c) and X(e).

¹²Act of June 27, 1944, ch. 287, 58 Stat. 387, amended and codified in various provisions of Title 5 of the United States Code.

¹³Pub. L. 105-339, 112 Stat. 3186 (October 31, 1998).

¹⁴Sen. Rept. 105-340, 105 Cong., 2d Sess. at 19 (Sept. 21, 1998).

¹⁵VEOA " 4(c)(1) and (5).

HONORING PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is with great sadness but great honor that I rise to commemorate the life and actions of Gerald R. Ford, the 38 President of the United States. President Ford led our country through turbulent and uncertain times and did so with a kind of strong modesty that he

was known for his entire life. From his days as a star of the University of Michigan football team to serving as minority leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, Gerald Ford's ability to lead was apparent to all. Aside from his leadership qualities, President Ford was a man beyond reproach and respected by all. These qualities made him Richard Nixon's choice to replace his first Vice President, Spiro Agnew. Following President Nixon's resignation, Gerald Ford returned honor to the office of the President and restored the country's confidence in our leaders. Gerald Ford exemplified the best of America and served the country in every way. From his heroism in World War II to his Presidency and graceful retirement, he harkens back to a day when love of country and bipartisan-ship were paramount.

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I join with all North Carolinians and all Americans in mourning the passing of President Gerald Ford. I was privileged to call President Ford a dear friend for more than 30 years, and my husband Bob and I continue to keep Betty and the entire Ford family in our thoughts and prayers.

President Ford presided over America during some of her most difficult and challenging times. Immediately upon entering the Oval Office, President Ford was confronted with a myriad of problems—a faltering economy, energy shortages, international disputes, and a nation disheartened and disillusioned by scandal. He confronted these challenges head-on, and he did so with honesty, integrity, common sense, and decency. He was a true American patriot who never failed to put the interests of his country above his own political interests. And, to me, that is the embodiment of a true leader.

Long before entering the White House, President Ford had a distinguished and successful career. He diligently represented the people of Michigan in the U.S. House of Representatives for 25 years, including 8 years serving as House minority leader. Throughout each chapter of his career, President Ford displayed extraordinary care and thoughtfulness as he worked tirelessly to bring together his colleagues—from both sides of the ideological spectrum—for the betterment of our Nation. And in turn, his colleagues respected him, relied on his wise judgment, and valued his leadership.

As my husband Bob says, President Ford was the type of person you would want as your next-door neighbor. He was humble, down-to-earth, and accessible. What you saw with President Ford was what you got.

In addition to having the honor of serving in President Ford's administration as a Federal Trade Commissioner, I had the privilege of spending a good bit of time with President Ford and his dear wife Betty when my husband campaigned as his running mate in 1976.

During this time, I saw a side of the President that I wish every American could have seen.

I will never forget the day when President Ford announced that Bob would be his running mate. We were in Bob's hometown of Russell, KS, and my mother-in-law wanted very much to serve a home-cooked fried chicken dinner to the President. But when President Ford and Bob arrived at her home, they discovered that Mrs. DOLE had accidentally locked herself out of the house. So there was the President of the United States standing on the front stoop patiently waiting for Mrs. DOLE to find the spare key. She was a nervous wreck, but the President didn't mind one bit—instead, he kindly offered to help her find the key, so together they searched until they found it behind a drainpipe. I have always thought this story about a small kindness truly speaks volumes about the sterling character of a man I have long respected and admired. Even as President Ford had the weight of the world on his shoulders, he always treated his fellow man with kindness, respect, and personal modesty.

President Ford served the United States with courage and distinction, and he provided a shining example for all public servants to follow. I am so proud to have known this man of character, strength, and intellect. I will miss my friend, and I wish the best to Betty, his children, Michael, John, Steven, and Susan, and the entire Ford family.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to state how proud I was to support Senate Resolution 19, celebrating the life of the late President Gerald R. Ford.

It was an honor to commemorate the extraordinary legacy of the 38th President of the United States, Gerald Rudolph Ford, as we have mourned the loss of a treasured national leader and exceptional public servant.

President Ford will forever be remembered for his unassailable integrity and decency, at a most difficult and challenging time. He was truly a great American who devoted his life not only to the Nation he loved but also to the finest and most ennobling ideals of public service. Throughout the years, President Ford represented a voice of civility and problem-solving—of consensus-building—and healing. History will record that his contribution to America's story was both indispensable and irrefutable.

When our Nation looked to him for assurance, his stalwart character, disposition, and judgment instilled a quiet and renewed confidence in our country. He restored the public trust in the Presidency and in our Government, reminded us of the strength and durability of our Constitution, and engendered a hope that tempered our anxieties and turned our attention once again to the future.

During his distinguished 25 years as both a Member and later minority

leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, then-Congressman Gerald Ford never sought the office of Vice President or President, but when in 1974 he faced the daunting task of assuming the highest office in the land, his steadfast dedication to the bedrock principles of hardwork, common sense, and duty—so emblematic of his upbringing and his remarkable career in Congress—prepared him to occupy the White House and served him well over the course of his brief but historic tenure.

With an unwavering moral compass, a certain grasp of purpose, and an always-steady resolve, President Ford guided us out of conflict abroad and quelled our concerns here at home and in doing so brought honor to the Oval Office and reassurance to Americans. It is fitting that in football as well as in his public life, Gerald Ford was ever the keystone, the center that held those around him together, who exemplified the essential underpinning that made progress possible.

On a personal note, last summer I had the esteemed privilege of cosponsoring—along with Senators WARNER, STEVENS, and LEVIN—an amendment offered by Senator JOHN WARNER to the 2007 Defense authorization bill that would name our Nation's newest carrier the "USS *Gerald R. Ford*." In fact, the Navy's entire class of future carriers would be known as the Ford class—in honor of the President we praise.

Later this month, that accolade—which the Senate passed unanimously—is expected to come to fruition. Such a bestowal by Navy Secretary Winter would be an appropriate tribute to then-Lieutenant Ford, who, as a sailor in December 1944, encountered a typhoon while aboard the carrier USS *Monterey* and demonstrated the virtues that would emerge as the hallmark of his unflagging service and sacrifice to our Nation, such as calm and courage amid turmoil, presence of mind to act decisively despite confusion and chaos, and an unflinching will of spirit to help others, even at great personal peril.

It has been recounted in the Bob Drury and Tom Clavin book "Halsey's Typhoon: The True Story of A Fighting Admiral, an Epic Storm, and an Untold Rescue" that Lieutenant Ford rescued wounded comrades, beat back raging fires, and helped salvage a ship that was ordered to be abandoned. Gerald Ford was integral to the effort driven by the simple belief of the skipper, Captain Ingersoll, that "we can fix this." As part of Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet, they did not give up the USS *Monterey* in what reportedly was "one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. military history," a disaster where much of the fleet was decimated and more men were purportedly killed than in the Battle of Midway.

Mr. President, this story in many ways embodies the essence of this great son of Michigan. The story of the USS

Monterey is telling in that—like President Ford—it has for years taken a humble and unassuming place in the American narrative—and yet over time has rightfully grown in stature and acclaim. We also see a disposition and valor in a young sailor that would be brought to bear later in life as a statesman. Lieutenant Ford's reaction to conflagration and crisis was to take action and help tamp it down. Gerald Ford helped bring under control the flames that imperiled the USS *Monterey*. He would do similarly as President when charged to guide the ship of state—which he did with a fearless, unflappable demeanor. And which he did, to paraphrase President Lincoln, "with firmness in the right as God [gave him] to see the right." And through his eloquence of action, Gerald Ford moved us all to "strive on to finish the work we [were] in" . . . and helped "to bind up the nation's wounds." And for that we are eternally grateful.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with First Lady Betty Ford, their children, and the entire Ford family. May God bless and keep President Gerald R. Ford and may God bless the United States of America he so ably led.

HONORING HOLIDAY WREATHS AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the patriotic and exemplary contribution of Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company in Harrington, ME, who for the past 15 years has undertaken what has become an extraordinary tradition—to donate, transport, and oversee the placement of Maine balsam fir holiday wreaths on the graves of the exceptional service men and women buried and forever extolled at Arlington National Cemetery.

It is truly inspiring to see how the actions of one man can transform into such an honorable and moving tribute to America's fallen heroes. Unquestionably, I am immensely grateful to have been part of Morrill Worcester's dream, which began in December of 1992 when he called my office to ask if he could place his excess wreaths on the graves of soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. I never could have imagined that what occurred on that day would evolve remarkably into a nationwide gesture of unfailing gratitude for our troops.

During the season of thankfulness and giving, Morrill Worcester's tremendous generosity exemplifies not only the very best of the holiday spirit but also the inherent good will and can-do belief which is the abiding hallmark of Mainers. And what better way to celebrate the joy engendered by that time of year than to pay rightful homage to the countless courageous veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure and protect the many freedoms we cherish everyday. It is on oc-

casions such as this that I could not be more proud to be both a Mainer and an American.

This past December Mr. Worcester was joined by 800 volunteers, including Maine Civil Air Patrol Units, local VFW and American Legion Posts, military units, congressional staffers, schoolchildren, Scout troops, and an array of American veterans for the trek down U.S. Route 1 from Harrington to Washington, DC, with 5,000 Maine balsam fir holiday wreaths.

In fact, it was on Thursday, December 14, 2006 when the tractor-trailer with the logo "Wreaths across America" was parked at the top of the 11th section of the cemetery, with more than 500 volunteers gathered and ready to grace those monuments to heroism with red ribbons, making an already beautiful testament to bravery and valor even more stunning and glorious. The Maine wreaths were also laid on the grave of Edmund Muskie, former U.S. Senator from Maine and Secretary of State, and near the sites of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the USS *Maine* Memorial.

The many white tombstones that one day prior had stood barren now had come to life because of one man and hundreds of dedicated volunteers who, with full hearts and sharing hands, simply took the time to thank those who sacrificed themselves on our behalf—men and women whose undaunted service recalls the timeless words of President John Adams: "If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind whom should we serve?"

With many of America's finest in harm's way, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is more imperative than ever that we remember always that freedom is not free—and there are those who gave the full measure of devotion to protect us and defend our liberty.

A NEW CHANCE FOR GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on April 20, 1999, two students walked into Columbine High School and carried out a shooting rampage, killing 12 fellow students and a teacher, as well as wounding 24 others, before committing suicide. A week later, we paused in the Senate to observe a moment of silence in tribute to those who died and to express our sympathy for their loved ones. Since this tragic event, many of us, on many occasions, have urged our colleagues to debate and pass sensible gun legislation.

Between 1999 and 2004, over 117,000 people have been killed by guns, criminals continue to gain easy access to guns and law enforcement officers do not have the tools they need to investigate gun-related crimes. The 109th Congress nonetheless has failed to act and has missed numerous opportunities to enhance the safety of our communities across the Nation. Congress has not reauthorized the 1994 assault weapons ban. Congress has not closed the